

3/3/11 Deb



STURM, RUGER & CO., INC.

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March 1, 2011

Joint Committee on Judiciary
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Opposition to Bill No. 1094
An Act Banning Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing in opposition to Bill No. 1094. This bill, if enacted, will not deter crime and will put thousands of Connecticut residents at risk of harm or prosecution.

S Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc., more commonly known as Ruger, is a Connecticut-based firearms manufacturer founded in 1949. Our motto is "Arms Makers for Responsible Citizens" and, with this motto in mind, our over 1,200 employees here in the United States manufacture firearms used by law enforcement, the military, sportsmen and private citizens.

Our customers have come to rely upon the benefits of magazines with capacities over ten (10) rounds, including increased odds in personal defense situations and use in a variety of shooting sports. The arbitrary banning of magazines which accept more than ten rounds will not, as proponents no doubt suggest, reduce crime. Rather, it will unfairly penalize law-abiding citizens who legally purchase and use these magazines for personal defense, shooting sports, and other lawful purposes.

Rather than conjecture and innuendo, consider some facts that support the lawful ownership and use of magazines that hold more than ten rounds:

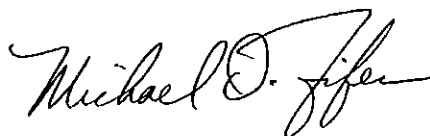
- In defensive situations, magazines in excess of ten rounds provide law enforcement and private citizens the ability to deal with multiple offenders. According to the Department of Justice, one-third of aggravated assault and robbery victims are attacked by multiple offenders. This is one reason magazines holding more than ten rounds are so common today.

- In stressful situations, even highly trained individuals are prone to missing their intended target. Indeed, there are many examples of law enforcement personnel firing multiple shots without immobilizing the perpetrator. For the average citizen, who does not have the benefit of repeated training, the likelihood of missing an intended target during a criminal attack is even greater. By arbitrarily limiting magazine capacity, you would place law-abiding citizens at risk.
- The proposed ban would not prevent criminals from obtaining magazines that hold more than ten rounds. In fact, most criminals are already ineligible to possess firearms under existing laws. If they are willing to break the law by illegally possessing a firearm, it is self-evident that they are not going to be concerned about whether their magazines meet legal requirements.
- Congress' study of the federal magazine ban of 1994-2004 "failed to produce any evidence that the ban reduced the number of victims per gun homicide incident" and found that "the average number of gunshot wounds per victim did not decrease."
- The number of magazines that hold more than ten rounds has grown steadily in the past twenty years. Yet, during this same period the nation's murder rate has fallen 53% to a fifty year low.
- Many common firearms are produced with magazines in excess of ten rounds, and have been for years. Firearms tend to be very durable and may be handed down from generation to generation. For older firearms, magazines with ten rounds or fewer may not be available; under the proposed bill, these firearms would be rendered essentially useless.

These facts (and many others not included here) demonstrate that the regulation of magazine capacity will not deter crime, but will instead put law-abiding citizens at risk of harm. The bill, if enacted, also would expose law-abiding citizens to criminal prosecution for unintentionally possessing prohibited magazines -- magazines that were legally acquired and that are largely the norm in new firearms manufacturing. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose Bill No. 1094.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this letter in opposition to the bill.

Sincerely,
STURM, RUGER & COMPANY, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael O. Fifer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "M" and "F".

Michael O. Fifer
Chief Executive Officer

cc: file
MF/aa